

# from the office of the City Manager

College Station ★ Texas



## *A Monthly Report to the Honorable Mayor and City Council* April 2005

### March in Review...

Warmer temperatures may be ahead, but it was chilly inside the new Arctic Wolf Ice Center on Holleman as they opened its doors for an exhibition hockey game April 1 and are scheduled to offer public skating starting April 8. More than 1000 residents turned out for the inaugural event.

★ We are pleased to announce the City's participation in **Brazos Valley Reads**, a community literacy initiative introduced at an icebreaker social in March at the Exit Center. City employees are meeting each month at the Conference Center to review a book selection and exchange ideas. **Dr. Stephanie Brown** of Ohio State University Newark was the guest speaker at the first meeting.

★ In this issue, you will note introductions of two "new" employees -- **R. B. Alley**, our new Fire Chief from Virginia Beach, and **Lance Simms**, who will be moving up from Building Official to

Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services. We expect great things from each.



**Transportation Summit**

★ Election season is upon us as signs are appearing across the City. **Early voting** will be held April 20 to May 3, with election day voting on May 7.

★ The **Fourth Annual Transportation Institute** received great reviews from community leaders who appreciated the efforts to accent area transportation concerns. **Ken Fogle** did a superb job taking care of details from speakers to banners in making certain the two-day

event ran smoothly.

★ Other items of interest are the combined efforts of College Station and Bryan on a mosquito abatement program and joint police testing date, plus the always entertaining Starlight Music Series that opens April 9 with Asleep at the Wheel.

City Manager





## ***Fourth Transportation Summit Opens with International Touch***

Trains, cars, and planes were the focus of attention in March as more than 150 community leaders gathered at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center for the Fourth Transportation Summit sponsored by the City of College Station.

Transportation planner **Ken Fogle** describes the event as a forum in which community leaders from across the Brazos Valley meet to discuss all forms of public transportation.

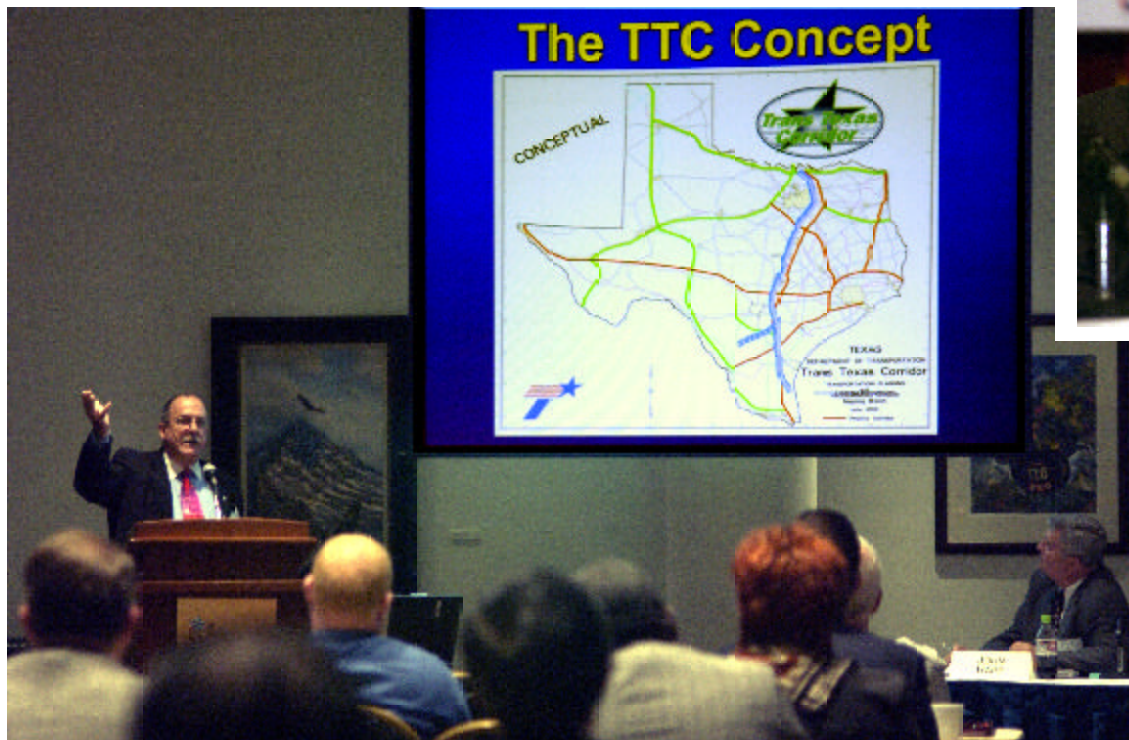
‘A big component is to educate each other on what is being done,’ he said. “One of the most beneficial things is the opportunity to get people together and see who is on the team.”

The two-day event began with a presentation

by Manuel Diaz Del Rio, Adviser to the Board, Spanish National Railways (*pictured below*), included a round table discussion on improving area roads by judges from five counties, and closed with Congressman Chet Edwards addressing participants on what is being done nationally to address transportation funding needs in the Brazos Valley area.

Also on the agenda were topics such as Development of Trade Corridors in Texas, Transportation’s Impact on Economic Development, and the Integration of Land Use and Transportation Planning.

The 2006 Transportation Summit is slated February 16-17.







# Briefly speaking...

## ***New Fire Chief Selected, Set to Assume Duties May 1***

With almost 50 applicants from across the United States vying for the College Station Fire Chief position, a final decision was announced April 1 with **Robert "R.B." Alley**, District Fire Chief in Virginia Beach, Virginia, selected by City Manager **Tom Brymer**.



Alley will begin his duties May 1, but is scheduled to spend a week in late April with current **Fire Chief Dave Giordano**, who is retiring after 28 years with the College Station Fire Department.

"This is a challenging decision and has been a long process, but we had good candidates from which to choose and it became clear to me after our site visit to Virginia that R. B. was the best choice to lead our fire department in the future," said Brymer.

Alley began his career as a volunteer firefighter in Virginia Beach in 1973, then moved up through the ranks to District Fire Chief, a position he has held since July 2001. The Virginia Beach Fire-Rescue Department is a combination fire department with 450 career members and 200 volunteers and an annual operating budget of \$34 million. As District Fire Chief, he was responsible for day-to-day operations to insure a high quality of life and a safe community for citizens and visitors to the city.

A graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program of the National Fire Academy, he holds a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Leo University and a Master of Public Administration from Troy State University.

## ***Lance Simms Promoted to P&D Assistant Director***

**Lance Simms**, Building Official for College Station since 1996, has been named Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services.



"An integral part of this Department, Lance has implemented a solid customer service approach as Building Official for a number of years," said **Joey Dunn**, Director of Planning and Development Services. "I know he will do for our Department what he has done for the Building Division: provide simply better service to our customers."

Lance said he was excited about the opportunity. "We've been able to accomplish some great things under Joey's leadership and I look forward to helping implement further improvements."

Joey added that Lance competed with "some very well qualified candidates from across the country and an inclusive interview process was used to solicit panel input from a cross-departmental employee panel as well as a second panel composed of members of the local development community and a homeowner's association."

Prior to joining the College Station staff, Lance served as Building Official in Ruston, Louisiana. He holds a B.S. in Building Construction from Northeast Louisiana University and M.S. in Construction Management from Texas A&M University.

## ***College Station Program Featured as Best Practice***

When "Best Practices 2005 Case Studies" are presented in April at the ICMA conference in Austin, College Station's **Tom Brymer** and **Julie O'Connell** will be joining **Mary Kaye Moore** of Bryan for a presentation featuring the local government collaboration in health coverage.

Faced with rising health insurance costs and limited choices, the two cities joined forces with Brazos County to form a consolidated employee health care plan.

Through an effort that included changes in plan administration and a requisite change in state law, these three jurisdictions were able to conduct a joint RFP, while retaining individual decision-making authority. More significantly, the joint effort has resulted in reduced premiums while providing a greater range of choices among hospitals and health care providers.

Six programs were selected for the annual Best Practices program. In addition to the College Station-Bryan study, presentations will be made by Corpus Christi; Austin; Monterey, Ca.; Westminster, Co.; and a team from Lawrence, Ks, Loudoun



# City briefs...



**Citizens University** recently ended its seventh year since the award-winning program was introduced in 1999. The 30-hour, 10-week course provides a greater understanding and awareness of the philosophy, services and activities of our City.

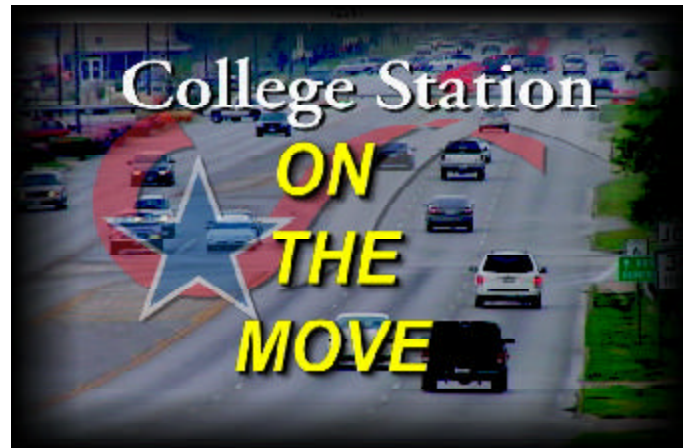
Approximately 180 residents have graduated from this program, with several now serving on Council, City committees and boards. **Peggy Calliham**, Community Programs Director, coordinates the program.

Congratulations to our 2005 Citizens University graduates: **James Batenhorst, Brian Bochner, Dennis Christiansen, Marsha Crenwelge, Charlotte Davis, George Faulkner, Andrew Fawcett, Florence Ham, Lisa Huerta, Christopher Jagge, Renee Lyle, Ann Marsh, Catherine McIntyre, Steve Moffitt, Christopher Narayanan, David Ruesink, Sloan Meredith, Jim Sluder, Hugh Stearns, Albert Stiring, Andrew Van Paasschen, and Diane Welch.**



College Station's **Channel 19** is attracting an audience with an expanded programming schedule that includes not only in-house broadcast of City Council workshops and meetings, but the addition of Planning and Zoning meetings.

**City View**, a news magazine format introduced in October, is becoming a popular stop on the remote as we receive calls and requests to be included from departments across the City. The program airs at 12:30, 2:30, 6:30 and 10:30 am and pm. Added this month is **College Station on the Move**, a snapshot of transportation projects underway with our first effort focusing on the widening of Texas Avenue. It is scheduled to air immediately following **City View**.



We have received the **February sales tax receipts** (*January sales*) from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,167,561.45 for the month of February, representing a 1.7% **decrease** in revenue from the same month a year earlier. Staff does not believe this is indicative of a downturn in economic conditions. Sales tax collections for FY 05 YTD are 3.05% **above** FY 04 collections, or \$6,750,270.68.

Overall, tax revenues continue to grow at the projected 3% trend. We will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

## February FY05 Receipts

\$1,167,561.45  
Actual Difference  
Percent Difference

## February FY04 Receipts

\$1,187,811.76  
(\$20,250.31)  
(1.7%)

## FY05 YTD Receipts

\$6,750,270.68  
Actual Difference  
Percent Difference

## FY04 YTD Receipts

\$6,550,651.41  
\$199,619.27  
3.05%

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
Heart of the  
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue  
College Station, TX 77842  
www.cstx.gov

## COUNCIL CALENDAR

### Thursday, April 7

Homeland Security Luncheon,  
CS Conference Center, 11 am  
to 2 pm

### Friday, April 8

Retirement Luncheon for Chief  
Giordano, Wings 'n More Party  
Room, 11:30 am to 1:15 pm

### Tuesday, April 12

Transportation Committee,  
Admin. Conference Room, Noon

### Thursday, April 14

Regular Meeting, 7 pm

### Monday, April 18

Intergovernmental Meeting,  
Bryan, Noon

### Tuesday, April 19

- Chamber of Commerce, 8 am  
- Meet the Chief Reception/Open  
House, CSPD, 4 -6 pm

### Wednesday, April 20

-Research Valley Partnership,  
Chamber Offices, 3 pm  
-Terrace Pines Groundbreaking  
819 Krennek Tap, 11 am

### Friday, April 22

Citizens Committee Recognition  
Banquet, Hilton Oakwood  
Room, 6 pm

### Thursday, April 28

City Council Workshop, 3 pm;  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

### Saturday, May 7

Election Day

# Shining moments...

★ From **Jan Pfannstiel**, Director of Administrative Services, MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley: "I want to thank each of you for including me in the Fire Chief interviewing process. I truly enjoyed the day and the opportunity to interact with others from the City of College Station and the local community. I am continually impressed with the efforts of the City to include citizen, employee and other stakeholder input in many of the activities important to our community. I am confident you will make the right decision and hire the best possible person to replace Chief Giordano."

★ From **Brian Bochner**, Senior Research Engineer, Texas Transportation Institute: "I truly think the College Station city staff are a great group of highly professional people committed to help the city's citizens...and not just do a job to draw a paycheck. While I am sure some of the city's residents have at times gotten frustrated, it is hard for me to conceive of a city staff so broadly helpful and so positive in attitude. Whatever it is that city management has captured in its staff is highly commendable."

★ From **Diane Welch**, Citizen University participant: "Here is a success story for you. My Portland, Oregon, relatives (who have been here with four teenage girls all week) were leaving to return to the Houston airport at 5:30 this morning when they locked the keys in their rental van with the motor running. I went to the freezer file (magnets) and found the number for the non-emergency police and called. They referred us to Pop-a-Lock that managed to get here in 15 minutes. I told the non-emergency police person that my knowledge was due to Citizen's University. At last report the relatives were on the plane."

★ Congratulations to **Eric Hurt**, assistant chief fire marshal, who recently completed his final research project to qualify for a certificate of completion from the Executive Fire Officer Program, an initiative of the United State Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy designed to provide those in key leadership roles with an understanding of the need to transform fire and emergency services organizations from being reactive to proactive.



**Arctic Wolf Ice Center Opening  
Includes Special Events, Exhibition  
Games in New Arena**







**ADMISSION FREE TO ALL EVENTS**

College Station Utilities and the College Station Parks and Recreation Department present the

# Starlight 2015

## MUSIC SERIES

Bring your own coolers & picnic baskets. No pets, please! BYOB. No glass containers. Soft drinks and snacks available for purchase.

**GATES OPEN 6:30 PM**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (979) 764-3486 OR VISIT [www.cstx.gov](http://www.cstx.gov)**

**APRIL 9:** Asleep at the Wheel with Bonnie Bishop, Jim Moody & Yogi Baird  
**APRIL 16:** Brave Combo with Midnight Express  
**APRIL 24:** Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra  
**APRIL 30:** Ray Price  
**MAY 7:** Cowboy Mouth with Reckless Kelly  
**MAY 14:** Marcia Ball with Karan Chavis  
**MAY 21:** Bobby Bare with Diamondback Texas  
**MAY 28:** Ro-Tel and The Hot Tomatoes  
**JUNE 4:** Doyle Bramhall with Blue Valentine  
**JUNE 11:** HELLS BELLS  
**JUNE 25:** Buckwheat Zydeco

**WOLF PEN CREEK AMPHITHEATER**



**College Station Utilities**  
 Reliable. Affordable. Community Owned.



## Shining moments...

★ From Bobby Slovak, A & M Consolidated High School, to **Trey Fletcher** and **Jennifer Prochazka**, Planning and Development Services: *"Thank you so much for providing an excellent presentation for our high school government students. We have a few who are now interested in planning as a career."*

★ From **H. R. Magness** to **Mayor Silvia**: *"Please extend my personal thanks to officer (Jamie) Urbina of the College Station PD. He was very helpful and patient with me. Too, I would like to express my thanks to the Security person at your Mall. I would like to say that Urbina is the type of Police Officer that every citizen would be glad to deal with in about any situation. It reflects well on your Police Department, and you as well. I would respectfully submit that this letter be made a permanent part of Officer Urbina's file."*

★ From **Dennis Christiansen** to **Peggy Calliham**: *"Thanks a lot for all of your good work to make the Citizens University a success. I believe everyone I talked to in the class felt like it was a very well done learning experience."*

*"We have a lot of visitors to TTI, and I have some appreciation of how much work it takes on your part to make sure all of this goes smoothly. It was a very well done program. The City has a lot of excellent and motivated staff. It would be difficult to go through this program and not come to the conclusion that College Station has an unusually good staff. I'm sure you will enjoy relaxing on Monday evenings! Thanks again for all you did."*

★ From **Steve D. Moffitt** to **Peggy Calliham**: *"I just wanted to thank you for all your hard work in putting together the CSCU program this spring. I found the information and tours to be very informative, interesting and felt that my time was very well spent in the program. I certainly will consider some of the other programs the City has to offer such as Fire and Police Academy after having such a positive experience in CSCU."*

*"I apologize again that I couldn't stay for lunch on Saturday. I would have enjoyed one last opportunity to visit with everyone, but since I head up our Sunday school class at church, I needed to get back to the group in Huntsville. Thanks again, wish you all the best, and I'm sure we'll run into each other around town at some point."*

★ From **Chris Narayanan** to **Peggy Calliham**: *"Since we didn't fill out evaluations for Saturday, I'd like to say that it was one of the best sessions of the course. Both Steve and Charles displayed the level of enthusiasm and knowledge that we have grown accustomed over these past several weeks."*

*"Overall, Citizens University has been very positive for me and greatly increased my knowledge of our city's government and services. I appreciate the opportunity to attend these classes and will definitely recommend it to my friends and neighbors."*